

The Rob Williams Award for Emerging Environment and Public Policy Leaders

The *Rob Williams Award for Emerging Environment and Public Policy Leaders* was established in recognition of the late Rob Williams' commitment and contributions to the field of environmental and public policy dispute resolution and the professional development of its practitioners. The award will be presented to an emerging practitioner who demonstrates the promise to exercise the leadership exemplified by Rob.

Rob Williams emerged as a leader in the field of environmental conflict resolution even as he continued to grow as a practitioner. He was an active member of the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) [Environment and Public Policy Section \(EPP\)](#), serving on the EPP Leadership Council. In particular, Rob is remembered for his role in helping develop a community of practice for mid-level mediators across the field. He worked with others to organize the first EPP-wide mid-level training opportunity at the 2006 EPP Section Conference, as well as the Mentoring Workshop and mid-level session at the 2009 conference. These events have also led to other opportunities for mid-level practitioners to collaborate, learn, and build relationships.

Award Purpose: To provide a developing practitioner with a platform to build relationships with peers in the field and become involved with EPP, with the goal of creating a future leader in the Section and Association. It is an explicit assumption in giving the award that the recipient will utilize the platform to make long-lasting contributions to EPP and its members.

Who Should Apply: Environmental and public policy practitioners with 3-8 years of experience in the field and an interest in future involvement in EPP are encouraged to apply. The chosen applicant must demonstrate leadership potential and interest in contributing to future ACR and EPP activities such as conference planning, the Leadership Council, or other Section and Association activities. Preference will be given to applicants who would be first-time ACR and EPP members. Applicants will be asked to submit a short statement, résumé, and two professional references. Applicants must be available and committed to attend and participate actively in the annual [EPP Section Conference](#) (May 24) and the [US Institute for Conflict Resolution's Environmental Conflict Resolution Conference](#) (May 25-27).

Award: The 2010 award recipient will receive the following:

1. One-year membership in ACR and EPP
2. Scholarship (waived conference registration) for the annual EPP conference¹
3. Stipend to offset cost of traveling to the annual conference (up to \$500)²

¹ On years when the EPP one-day conference is joined with U.S. Institute for Conflict Resolution's conference in Tucson, such as 2010, the recipient will receive waived registration to both conferences.

² Applicants will be asked to submit receipts for reimbursable expenses up to \$500, and are expected to cover or seek funding for remaining costs.

Selection Process: Applicants should fill out the attached form, including two professional references. Applicants are also asked to attach a current résumé and a one-page (maximum) statement sharing your ideas on one or more of the following topics:

- An emerging challenge facing the profession, how it impacts entry- and mid-level practitioners, and approaches for addressing that challenge over the next five years.
- Partnering and alliance building efforts that can benefit the profession in general and mid-level professionals specifically.
- Opportunities for increasing the diversity of practitioners in environmental and public policy dispute resolution.
- A conference training, workshop, or panel discussion to engage leaders from diverse backgrounds and share lessons that dovetail with the core values of the EPP Section and its members.
- Web-based tools and techniques that can be developed or adapted for and utilized by mid-level EPP professionals.
- An initiative that benefits entry-level and mid-career professionals engaged in environmental and public policy dispute resolution.
- Roles that individual firms/organizations and the EPP Section can provide to advance the development of new and mid-level practitioners.

Please submit completed application form, résumé, and essay to Jen Peyser and Brad Spangler (jpeyser@resolv.org; bspangler@merid.org) by 5 p.m. Eastern on Friday, March 26. Any questions regarding the application should also be directed to both Jen and Brad.
Applicants will be notified of award selection by Friday, April 9.

Additional Selection Considerations: Please note that while proposals that meet more than one criterion are desired, proposals that are exceptionally strong in just one area will also be seriously considered. We seek proposals that:

- Present and explore unique collaborative tools, case studies, and/or session format;
- Tell a compelling story;
- Provide practical and usable information/guidance/lessons for the Section in general and mid-level professionals in particular;
- Promote interaction and discourse going beyond discussion of individual cases; and/or
- Provide linkages between the organizing questions in the context of a given issue, professional challenge, or fleeting opportunity.

Award Sponsorship: The EPP Leadership Council thanks the following organizations for sponsoring this award:

- Association for Conflict Resolution (www.acrnet.org)
- Environment & Public Policy Section (www.acrepp.org)
- Meridian Institute (www.merid.org)
- U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (www.ecr.gov)

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Application Form

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Applicant Contact Information

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Applicant Employment

Please attach a résumé with a brief description of current and past positions held (including dates), education, publications and conference presentations, professional affiliations, and relevant volunteer activities.

References

Please provide two professional references, including one from your current employer.

Reference #1:

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Reference #2:

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Essay

Please attach a short essay sharing your ideas on one or more of the following topics (one page maximum):

- An emerging challenge facing the profession, how it impacts entry- and mid-level practitioners, and approaches for addressing that challenge over the next five years.
- Partnering and alliance building efforts that can benefit the profession in general and mid-level professionals specifically.
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Eligibility Considerations

Please answer the following questions to confirm your eligibility for the award:

1. Are you a mid-level practitioner in the field of environment and public policy? (*For purposes of this award, "mid-level" is defined as having 3-8 years of practice in the field.*)
2.
 - a. Are you an existing or past member of the Association for Conflict Resolution?
 - b. If yes, please list years in which you were a member.
 - c. If yes, were you also a member of the Environment and Public Policy Section?
3. If chosen, can you confirm you will attend the 2010 EPP Conference (May 24) and ECR Conference (May 25-27) in Tucson, Arizona? (*Please see <http://www.acrepp.org/content/2010-usiecr-acr-epp-conference> and <http://ecr.gov/AnnouncementsEvents/Conference/ECR2010/Home.aspx> for further information on these events.*)
4. If chosen, can you confirm that you be able to cover or seek separate funding for any conference expenses (e.g., travel, hotel) exceeding \$500?